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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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CANTOR COLBURN LLP - BELLSOUTH
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EXAMINER

NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/746,325	Applicant(s) GILBERT, LANNY	
	Examiner George C. Neurauter, Jr.	Art Unit 2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-10 and 12-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-10, and 12-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-26 are currently presented and have been examined.

It is noted for the record that a new Examiner has been assigned to this case. Any future correspondence regarding this case should be directed to the Examiner listed below.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 21 December 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that Passport and Koneru fail to teach or suggest determining whether a cookie exists on the user machine and then performing steps in response to determining that the cookie does not exist. The Examiner respectfully submits that these arguments are moot in view of the currently presented claims. The currently presented claims contain conditional limitations wherein the claims fail to specifically recite the steps that occur when a cookie does exist on a user machine. Therefore, as required by MPEP 2111, the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim wherein a cookie may exist on the user machine is valid and, since the claim does not recite any limitations for this case, any such limitations or steps wherein the cookie does not exist are interpreted as having no associated further limitations. Therefore, the

Art Unit: 2143

amendments made do not further limit the invention and, in fact, broaden the scope of the claim. Passport discloses determining that a cookie exists on a user computer (page 7, specifically "For security reasons, you must delete all Passport-related persistent and session cookies from a member's computer..."), therefore, such an interpretation in view of combined teachings of these references wherein a cookie may exist on the user machine is submitted to be valid.

Therefore, in view of the prosecution history and the combined teachings of these references, the claims are not in condition for allowance. It is recommended that the Applicant further define the conditional limitation in order to distinguish the claims from the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2143

4. Claims 1-4, 6-10, & 12-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Passport TM in view of US Patent 5,966,705 to Koneru.

5. Regarding Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16, 17 & 24-26, Microsoft Passport TM discloses a system and method for providing information on a plurality of requestors over the Internet, ("Microsoft Passport: Streamlining Commerce and Communication on the Web", October 11, 1999 article - Examiner numbered p.18), comprising:

- storing information on the plurality of users in a database located on a cookie management system web server and associating the information with a plurality of keys, (Passports), wherein keys, (Passports), are assigned, (created), for the user by an assigning functionality, (per pending Claim 17), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-15);
- receiving a request at the cookie management system web server for information on a particular user from one of the requestors over the Internet, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-15);

Art Unit: 2143

- receiving a key corresponding to user data associated with the request at the cookie management system web server from the requestor over the Internet, the key associated with the request included in a cookie on a machine of the particular user wherein the key associated with the request was retrieved from the machine of the particular user by the requestor, (per pending Claim 12), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-15);
- using the key(s) associated with the request to retrieve the information on that particular user from the database, (per pending Claim 13), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-15);
- forwarding the information on that particular user to the one requestor over the Internet, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-15);
- wherein receiving a request from a second user's machine, checking for a cookie on the second user's machine, sending a query for an available key when the

Art Unit: 2143

second user's machine does not contain any cookie, and placing the cookie with the available key on the second user's machine, (first-time sign-in), (per pending Claim 14), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-15).

6. Though Microsoft Passport TM teaches the use of cookies, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p. 7 & 15), Microsoft specifies that when a user chooses to "sign-out" of Passport, all Passport-related cookies from all Passport Web sites are deleted to insure unauthorized people are not able to access member information from the same computer. In other words, though Microsoft Passport TM teaches temporary cookie storage on the client, it does not specifically teach permanent cookie storage on the client.

7. Koneru discloses a "globally unique identifier", (GUID), created by a server when a user first accesses a website, and stored on the client computer as a "cookie". Koneru additionally teaches the subsequent creation and storage of a database entry, (per pending Claims 24-26), on the server computer to track the user activity, (Col. 2, lines 43-67; Col. 3, lines 1-10; Col. 4, lines 59-67; Col. 5, lines 1-47; & Claims 1-25), (Examiner notes

Art Unit: 2143

that "a first access" inherently implies that no cookie exists. Examiner additionally notes that Applicant's claim language does not enumerate any specific means by which the requestor "knows" that the cookie is successfully written to the user machine, and as such, Examiner finds that the requestor obviously knows when and if the cookie is successfully written to the user machine, as the requestor is the one writing the cookie to the user machine). Upon user return to the website, the browser searches local storage to determine if it has a cookie for that website. If so, the browser transmits the cookie to the server, (Col. 2, lines 12-67 and Col. 3, lines 1-10). Koneru further discloses use of the GUID which also prompts the user for user ID and password information, which the system stores as a cookie which user ID and password information is subsequently received by a website each time the user passes the cookie to the website, (Col. 2, lines 12-67 and Col. 3, lines 1-10).

8. Moreover, Examiner notes, that Koneru specifically teaches Applicant's claim limitations, including server-to-server communications wherein the web server database is accessed using the token received from the client, (Koneru - Claims 1-25; particularly Claims 1-11). Additionally, Examiner notes that the combined references clearly and obviously teach receipt of a user-supplied password and key, wherein the user-supplied

Art Unit: 2143

password is obtained from the particular user by the requestor and grants the requestor permission to use the information the particular user in the cookie management system, (Koneru - Cols. 1 & 2; & Col. 3, lines 1-10), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-15).

9. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by Applicant to substitute the Koneru method of permanent storage of cookie data on the client within the Microsoft Passport TM system. The motivation to combine is found within the Microsoft Passport TM use of cookies generally and in the fact that should a member client not sign off or close the browser, said Passport-related cookies in theory are never deleted. For reasons of security, Microsoft Passport TM teaches the destruction of cookie data on the client machine, however, retention of the same would have been an obvious, albeit less secure variation. Additional motivation to combine is found in Koneru, which teaches a need for secure storage of user information used for tracking repeat user website visits, (i.e.: Microsoft Passport), (Koneru - Col. 1, lines 47-67 & Col. 2, lines 1-47). Thus, Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 16, 17 & 24-26 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru.

Art Unit: 2143

10. Regarding Claims 2 & 3, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport [™] in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. As noted above, Microsoft Passport [™] discloses the storing of information as a different key(s) (Passport(s)) for each user, wherein the different keys may represent multiple sets of information pertaining to the same user, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-15). Examiner notes that within Microsoft Passport [™], a user may create multiple Passports using multiple sets of information. Thus, Claims 2 & 3 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport [™] in view of Koneru.

11. Regarding Claims 4, 5, 11 & 19, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport [™] in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. Microsoft Passport [™] further discloses a security means wherein a requestor must be authorized by the user in order to obtain information about the same, (per pending Claims 4, 11 & 19), ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-15). Examiner finds that the use of a user-supplied password, (per pending Claims 5 & 11), would have been obvious in view of the fact that Microsoft Passport [™] does not allow access to user information without user-controlled authorization, which authorization would

Art Unit: 2143

obviously include a user-supplied password verification means.

Thus, Claims 4, 5, 11 & 19 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport,™ in view of Koneru.

12. Regarding Claims 6, 10 and 20, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport™ in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. Koneru further discloses the use of ActiveX controls, Java applets and VB Scripts as inserted into HTML documents, (Col. 1, lines 39-46). As Koneru utilizes HTML, Examiner finds that the use of XML for the sending/forwarding of information by the cookie management system would have been obvious. Thus, Claims 6, 10 & 20 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport™ in view of Koneru.

13. Regarding Claims 7, 15 and 18, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport™ in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. Microsoft Passport™ further discloses the receiving of new information on the user from the requestor and updating the database with the new information, ("Microsoft Passport is committed to Safeguarding Security and Privacy" - Examiner numbered p.13-16). Examiner notes that a user may update Passport profile information at any time. Moreover, Examiner finds that emails sent on behalf of participating websites could obviously include requests for additional or updated user information for a variety of purposes, which could obviously be

Art Unit: 2143

used to update or enhance user information. Thus, Examiner finds that it would have been obvious for a user or administrator to update user information per the respective user or website request. Thus, Claims 7, 15 and 18 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru.

14. Regarding Claim 8, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. As noted above, Microsoft Passport TM selects, (creates), an available key, (Passport), for the user and supplies the same to the requestor for communication with the user. Moreover, it is also noted above that within Microsoft Passport TM, said keys are only temporarily stored on the user's machine as cookies, whereas, the permanent storage of cookies on a user machine is taught by Koneru. Thus, Claim 8 is found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru.

15. Regarding Newly Added Claims 21-23, the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport TM in view of Koneru are relied upon as noted herein. As noted above, Microsoft Passport TM teaches the use of multiple Passport configured sites, (Microsoft Passport TM - p.8), and customized cookie information, (Microsoft Passport TM - p.15), wherein it would have been obvious for a user to allow

Art Unit: 2143

different access to user information based on amount and type of information, (i.e.: a clothing site would not need to know user reading preferences). Additionally, Koneru teaches a user-supplied password/key correspondence, (Koneru - Col. 2, lines 12-67 & Col. 3, lines 1-10), user customization information, (Koneru - Col. 1, lines 60-67 & Col. 2, lines 1-11), and user ID prompt for access to secure areas, (Koneru - Col. 2, lines 12-26). Thus, in light of the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport [™] and Koneru, Examiner finds that it would have been obvious to use only the user-supplied password, (ID), to retrieve the information on the particular user from the database, wherein the user-supplied passwords correspond to an amount and type of the information that the particular user wants the requestor to have. Thus, Claims 21-23 are found to be unpatentable over the combined teachings of Microsoft Passport [™] in view of Koneru.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action

Art Unit: 2143

is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

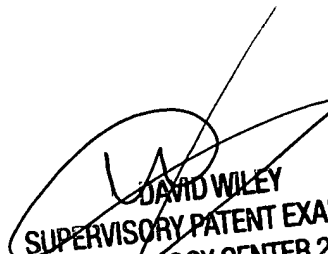
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is 571-272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley, can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2143

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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